

Astronomers measure a star with an apparent

V-band magnitude of $m_v = 19.4$ in the Andromeda Galaxy.

If this star were a Cepheid star, what would its period be?

The distance to Andromeda is $d = .77 \text{ Mpc}$

Using the distance modulus we can compute the star's Absolute Magnitude

$$\text{Magnitude } M_v \quad m - M = 5 \log_{10}(d [\text{pc}]) - 5$$

$$\Rightarrow M_v = m_v - 5 \log(d) + 5 = 19.4 - 5 \log(770,000 \text{ pc}) + 5 = -5.03$$

Then, using the period, luminosity relation for Cepheid stars, we can find the period

$$M_v = -2.678 \log_{10}(P [\text{days}]) - 1.00$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{M_v + 1.00}{-2.678} = \log_{10}(P [\text{days}])$$

$$\Rightarrow P [\text{days}] = 10^{\left[\frac{M_v + 1}{-2.678} \right]} = 10^{\left[\frac{-5.03 + 1}{-2.678} \right]} = \underline{\underline{322.0 \text{ days}}}$$